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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Expansion of the Navigation
School in Wustrow

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

SOURCE

1. On 28 June 1950 a conference was held at the Directorate-General of Shipping of the German Democratic Republic, (D.D.R.), at 18 Schumannstrasse, Berlin E. 7, during which plans were published for the training of personnel for the merchant marine and deep-sea fishery.
2. Mr. Krueger, (fnu), head of the navigation school in Wustrow, submitted an application for both the required expansion of the navigation school and the training program for new personnel for the merchant marine and deep-sea fishery.
3. Detailed information was given on the personnel, including nautical personnel, radio operators and seagoing mechanics, and engineers, urgently wanted for the merchant marine and fishery of the D.D.R. during the years of 1951 to 1953. Specifically, the total requirements by 1953 are 72 holders of certificate A-5 (foreign-trade mates), 45 holders of certificate A-6 (foreign-trade masters), 60 holders of certificate B-1 (coastal deep-sea fishing masters), 120 holders of certificate B-2 (coastal deep-sea fishing mates), 105 holders of certificate B-4 (ocean deep-sea fishing mates), 75 holders of certificate B-7 (ocean deep-sea fishing masters), 36 holders of certificate C-2 (small-engine mechanics), 90 holders of certificate C-3 (seagoing mechanics II class), 72 holders of certificate C-4 (seagoing mechanics I class), 50 holders of certificate C-5 (sea-going engineers II class), 24 holders of certificate C-6 (sea-going engineers I class), 65 radio operators with special certificate for fishing vessels, and 45 radio operators II class.
4. As the head of the navigation school stated, it was, for example, impossible to hold even one of the three 20-week courses required for the 105 B-4 students due to lack of instructors.
5. It was proposed to start by 2 September 1950 two additional courses, one for foreign trade mates and one for ocean deep-sea fishing mates, to be held in addition to the intended three courses for coastal deep-sea fishing (15 trainees) and for foreign-trade mates and foreign-trade masters (12 trainees each). This would only be feasible if two additional instructors were engaged. In the event of the application being rejected, about 30 urgently needed certificate holders would not be available until six months later.

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6. Radio operators for fishing vessels were almost entirely lacking. This deficiency could be corrected only by providing for a radio course at the school. To this end it would be necessary to appoint a radio instructor and provide for appropriate radio equipment and enlist the cooperation of the postal authorities. There was no training institute whatever for seagoing radio operators in the D.D.R.
7. The teaching staff of six instructors at the navigation school should be increased to nine by September 1950, to eleven after January 1951, and to thirteen should two classes for seagoing mechanics be established.
8. If the above plan were approved, five nautical courses for A and B certificates, two courses for mechanics with C certificates and two courses for radio specialists could be held during each term after February 1951.
9. If the plan were approved the head of the navigation school considered it necessary to recruit candidates by large-scale propaganda, perhaps in cooperation with the labor offices. *

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Comment. Considering the shipbuilding program of the D.D.R., namely 22 merchant ships up to 8,000 GRT and 392 fishing vessels to be built under the Five-Year-Plan until 1955, the plan to expand the navigation school is not surprising. It even seems doubtful whether the lack of certificate holders can be covered at all by the only navigation school of the D.D.R. existing in Rostow. No information on the extension of the school building proper has been received. As it may therefore be assumed that the instruction facilities are limited, an intensified effort to recruit trained mariners in West Germany must be expected, especially in view of the precarious situation of those living in the North Sea region. It is noted that some of the courses were lengthened in comparison with prewar courses, presumably chiefly on account of the "sociological instruction" which, apparently conducted by the Ministry of the Interior, occupies a minimum of eight hours per week and thus ranks second among the various subjects of study.

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